

Take the FIRST STEP: Quick Start the Annulment Process

The Tribunal of the Diocese of Cleveland will be presenting the First Step Program at four locations. This user-friendly program has successfully provided individuals with a simplified method for the initial presentation of an annulment case to the Tribunal. The program consists of two sessions. The first meeting will be a general overview of marriage as understood by the Catholic Church and an explanation of the Tribunal process. This meeting is also open to anyone who would be interested in deepening his/her knowledge of marriage in the Catholic Church and the annulment process. Individuals who would like to submit a case to the Tribunal using the First Step Program will be given the appropriate materials at the conclusion of the first meeting. Pre-registration for the first meeting is not necessary. Those wishing to submit an annulment case will complete the necessary materials and return to a second meeting -- an individual meeting by appointment only.

Program will be presented at the following four locations:

St. John Cathedral, Corner of Superior Ave. and East Ninth St, Cleveland, 44114

Session 1, 21 September 2010 @ 6:30 p.m. – Just walk in!

Session 2, 19 October 2010 – By appointment only!

St. Mary of the Falls, 25615 Bagley Rd, Olmsted Falls, 44138

Session 1, 23 September 2010 @ 7:00 p.m. – Just walk in!

Session 2, 21 October 2010 – By appointment only!

St. Hilary Church, 2750 West Market St, Akron, 44333

Session 1, 28 September 2010 @ 7:00 p.m. – Just walk in!

Session 2, 26 October 2010 – By appointment only!

St. Rita Church, 32820 Baldwin Rd, Solon, 44139

Session 1, 30 September 2010 @ 7:00 p.m. – Just walk in!

Session 2, 28 October 2010 – By appointment only!

What is the purpose of this workshop?

- To educate individuals regarding the Catholic teaching on marriage and requirements for a valid marriage as recognized by the Catholic Church.
- To educate individuals regarding the annulment process, including the various situations under which this may be necessary.
- To help those individuals who currently may be in an invalid marriage, and work toward validation of marriage within the Catholic Church.

What are the consequences for one who is not in a valid marriage?

- A person not in a valid marriage may not receive the sacraments of the Church (i.e. may not receive communion)
- A person not in a valid marriage may not act as a sponsor for baptism or confirmation (i.e. may not be a godparent)

Who should attend this workshop?

- Anyone interested in learning more about these topics.
- Those who believe they may not be in a valid marriage and wish to explore the process of working towards establishing a valid marriage in the Church.

Please Note: This workshop is offered as a way to reach out to those whose marriage, for whatever reason or circumstances, may not be valid in the Church. Even if it has been many years, all are invited and encouraged to attend and, hopefully, begin the process of re-establishing full communion within the sacramental life of the Church.